

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. Claim Status and Amendments

Claims 33-54 were pending in this application when last examined. Claims 48-54 have been canceled and claims 1-32 were previously canceled. Claims 36, 38, 39, and 43-46 have been amended, and claims 55-57 have been added.

Support for the new and amended claims can be found in the specification and original claims as filed, for example, at page 12, lines 21-28, and page 5, lines 27-28. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 33-47 and 55-57 are pending.

II. Allowed Claims

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication in the Office Action, at page 6, item 13, that claims 33-35 and 41-42 are allowed.

III. Claim Objections

At page 2, item 4, the Office Action objects to claims 36-40 under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter

of a previous claim. Applicants respectfully traverse the objection.

Amended claims 36 and 39 are independent claims that clearly define the intended subject matter. Dependent claims 37-38 further limit the subject matter of claim 36. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection.

At page 3, item 5, the Office Action objects to claims 44, 46 and 49 as not being in compliance with the requirements for Sequence Identifiers. Applicants respectfully traverse the objection.

Amended claims 44 and 46 address the Sequence Identifier issues pointed out in the Office Action, and claim 49 is canceled. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection.

IV. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

At page 3, item 7, the Office Action rejects claims 43-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Office Action contends that claims 43 and 45 are vague and indefinite for the recitation of a "variant" of the paraoxonase protein. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with this position, amended claims 43 and 45 no longer feature the "variant" paraoxonase limitation. Each of claims 43 and 45, and claims 44 and 46-47 dependent thereon,

satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

V. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

At page 4, item 11, the Office Action rejects claim 48-54 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

With respect to claim 48, the Office Action holds the position that the recitation of the use of monoclonal antibodies directed against "different epitopes of the isolated protein" renders the claim not enabled. The Office Action acknowledges that the instant protein of claim 33 is novel but the "different epitopes" are not shown to be unique. Thus, the Office Action concludes that the method of claim 48 would result in determination of concentration of any protein that shares the same six amino acid stretch of epitope common with the instant protein of SEQ ID NO: 1 and therefore is not enabled for a method of determining the concentration of the protein of claim 33.

The method claims 48-54 have been cancelled, and new method claims 55-57 have been added. Claim 55 is directed to a method for determining the concentration of the protein according to claim 33 utilizing electrophoresis, purification,

quantification of protein activity, or immunoassay. The methods do not rely on the use of monoclonal antibodies directed against "different epitopes" of the protein. Utilizing the disclosure in the specification, including the cited references, and the knowledge and skills associated with one of ordinary skill in the art, one could practice any of the methods recited in claim 55 to determine the concentration of the protein of claim 33.

For at least these reasons, claim 55, and claims 56-57 dependent thereon, satisfy the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

VI. Double Patenting Rejection

At page 6, item 12, the Office Action states that if claims 43-44 are found allowable, then claims 45-47 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. Applicants respectfully disagree. The referenced claims are not duplicates.

Claims 43 is directed to a pharmaceutical composition in which the isolated protein is in combination with a paraoxonase protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, or SEQ ID NO: 6. Claim 45 is directed to a combination product comprising the isolated protein and at least one paraoxonase protein consisting of the

amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, or SEQ ID NO: 6. Claim 43 and claim 45 recite at least one distinct critical limitation to distinguish the claimed products, therefore, double patenting does not apply.

VII. Conclusion

Having addressed all of the issues in the Office Action, the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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